(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As stated in reply to para 'c' of the Unstarred Question No. 1644 given in Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 2006, an amount of Rs. 25 Lakhs was paid as compensation to the persons who were cultivating the Kolkata Municipal Corporation's land proposed for the hospital, as one time cash grant, for loss of their earnings. No payment was made by Coal India Limited (CIL) to Kolkata Municipal Corporation towards cost of land. Hence the title deed of land has not been transferred in the name of CIL.

Allocation of coal to NCCF

†2455. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of 20 lakh tonnes of coal which is made to National Consumer Co-operative Federation (NCCF) every year for distributing the same among the consumers by his Ministry is continuing at present or not;

(b) the quantum of coal allocated to NCCF during the last financial year and the quantity out of it lifted by NCCF;

(c) the quantum of coal distributed among the consumers out of the coal lifted by NCCF during the last financial year; and

(d) the details of these consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. 20 lakh tonnes of coal was allocated to National Consumer Co-operative Federation (NCCF) during the last financial year (2006-07) which is still continuing on pro-rata basis during the current financial year.

(b) During the last financial year (2006-07), NCCF lifted only 1.49 lakh tonnes of coal against the allocation of 20 lakh tonnes of coal.

(c) and (d) Coal India Limited (CIL) has reported that such details are not maintained by them.

Coal gasification projects

2456. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote *in situ* coal gasification;

(b) if so, whether such a technology is commercially viable; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the sites where such projects have been implemented and the agencies involved in implementing *in situ* coal gasification projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) has been notified as eligible "end use" for allocation of coal blocks so that participation of private entrepreneurs can also be made in this new technology.

(b) The commercial viability of underground coal gasification in Indian condition,could only be assessed after taking up pilot scale studies. No such studies have so far been carried out in India.

(c)) CIL has entered into an MOU with ONGC to jointly pursue pilot scale study for UCU. Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) in turn has entered into an MOU with Skochinsky Institute of Mining (SIM), Russia for providing technical consultancy in this field. One block namely Kasta in Raniganj coalfield was selected for generation of additional data for considering its suitability for taking up Pilot Scale studies. Action has been taken to generate the requisite data.

A UCG related project with a duration of 4 years, funded jointly under R&D/ S&T grant of Ministry of Coal and Department of Science and Technology has been taken up by Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) in 2005 with an objective of evaluation of exploration data and selection of a Lignite block for UCG trial and carry out Pilot Scale studies and assess heat value of the gas produced. The project is under implementation.

ONGC is associated with NLC and Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited for development of UCG projects in lignite deposits at Rajasthan and Gujarat. Data generation is in progress.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited has also undertaken a study with ONGC for taking up UCG trials. Data generation is in progress.

New coal distribution policy

2457. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to frame a new coal distribution policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In compliance with the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, a Committee was constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Coal) to formulate New Coal Distribution Policy. The Competent Authority has taken a decision on the recommendation of the committee.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply given at (a) and (b) above.